



ATLANTA CITY COUNCIL

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Statements on the passing of Carl “Big C” Mason and Mr. Ivanhoe Donaldson

ATLANTA – Atlanta City Councilmember Michael Julian Bond issued the following statements on the passing of Carl “Big C” Mason and Mr. Ivanhoe Donaldson.

“Carl “Big C” Mason was funeralize today and I would like to publicly extend my condolences to his family and to his brothers in the labor movement for which he served for so many years with distinction. “Big C” had been a dear friend of my father and equally a good friend and mentor to myself. We deeply mourn his passing; as he leaves tremendous shoes to fill when it comes to looking out for the working man.” – Michael Julian Bond

“Ivanhoe Donaldson was a civil rights activist, political tactician, and strategist and in some circles was a political wunderkind. Many leaders from all walks of life sought his advice and counsel. He was a dear friend and campaign organizer for my father’s early campaign. They started out in the Student Non- Violent Coordinating Committee together (SNCC). He had been a good friend and mentor to him and also a mentor and advisor to myself politically in my early political years. We are saddened to hear about his passing and of course our condolences go out to the Donaldson family. His political strengths are well known for having gotten early black politicians elected, like Richard Hatcher of Gary Indiana, my father Julian Bond in 1965, Marion Barry in Washington D.C. and many, many others. He counseled black, Latino and female elected officials all over the country in their early strategies in the early years after desegregation. He was a wise sage when it came to politics and had a dear and genuine heart and he will be dearly, dearly missed.”— Michael Julian Bond

Donaldson worked for SNCC as an organizer and held leadership positions within the organization. In 1960-62, as a SNCC field secretary, Donaldson collected food in Michigan and Kentucky and brought it to Mississippi to help sharecroppers and tenant farmers who had been kicked off of their land for attempting to register to vote. In 1963 he was active in demonstrations in Danville, Virginia, and later during "Freedom Summer" in Mississippi in 1964. After the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) began planning a march from Selma, Alabama, to Montgomery, Alabama, in 1965, Donaldson became one of the SNCC organizers in Selma.

In 1968, Donaldson helped found Afro-American Resources, Inc., which ran the Drum and Spear Bookstore, Drum and Spear Press, and the Center for Black Education in Washington, D.C. He was also a visiting lecturer for Afro-American courses at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in 1970.

Ivanhoe Donaldson was Washington DC mayor Marion Barry's most trusted aide. Donaldson, who masterminded Barry's two election drives, was the heart and soul of Barry's administration. He was the "hands-on man" in charge of the actual operation of the government while Barry took the ceremonial role of mayor.

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